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MOUNTAIN STATE REPORTER

National Agricultural Statistics Service
West Virginia Field Office
in cooperation with
West Virginia
Department of Agriculture

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IN THIS ISSUE

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during October 2015 totaled 900,000 pounds. This was down 17 percent from October 2014. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 1.2 million pounds live weight, down 17 percent from October 2014. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,300 head, down 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight was down 22 pounds from the previous year, at 905 pounds.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 232,000 pounds live weight, down 15 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 800 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was down 10 pounds from the previous year, at 291 pounds.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States - Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.31 billion pounds in October, down slightly from the 4.32 billion pounds produced in October 2014.

Beef production, at 2.13 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.51 million head, down 5 percent from October 2014. The average live weight was up 35 pounds from the previous year, at 1,390 pounds.

Veal production totaled 7.2 million pounds, 7 percent below October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 40,300 head, down 7 percent from October 2014. The average live weight was up 1 pound from last year, at 305 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.17 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.25 million head, up 3 percent from October 2014. The average live weight was down 3 pounds from the previous year, at 283 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 12.0 million pounds, was down 11 percent from October 2014. Sheep slaughter totaled 186,300 head, 10 percent below last year. The average live weight was 129 pounds, unchanged from October a year ago.

January to October 2015 commercial red meat production was 40.1 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2014. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent from last year, veal was down 15 percent, pork was up 7 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

October 2014 contained 23 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays. October 2015 contained 22 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.

CHICKENS AND EGGS

United States - Egg production totaled 7.79 billion during October 2015, down 9 percent from last year. Production included 6.66 billion table eggs, and 1.13 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.05 billion were broiler-type and 82 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during October 2015 averaged 336 million, down 7 percent from last year. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,317 eggs, down 2 percent from October 2014.

All layers in the United States on November 1, 2015 totaled 337 million, down 7 percent from last year. The 337 million layers consisted of 279 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.46 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 2015, averaged 75.0 eggs per 100 layers, down 2 percent from November 1, 2014.

Egg-type chicks hatched during October 2015 totaled 50.0 million, up 12 percent from October 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 47.4 million on November 1, 2015, up 25 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 330 thousand during October 2015, down 11 percent from October 2014.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during October 2015 totaled 755 million, down 1 percent from October 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 608 million on November 1, 2015, down 1 percent from a year ago.

Leading breeders placed 6.83 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during October 2015, up slightly from October 2014.

NOVEMBER CROP PRODUCTION

United States - Corn production is forecast at 13.7 billion bushels, up less than one percent from the October forecast, but down 4 percent from last year's record production. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 169.3 bushels per acre, up 1.3 bushels from the October forecast but 1.7 bushels below the 2014 average. If realized, this will be the second highest yield and third largest production on record for the United States. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 80.7 million acres, unchanged from the October forecast but down 3 percent from 2014.

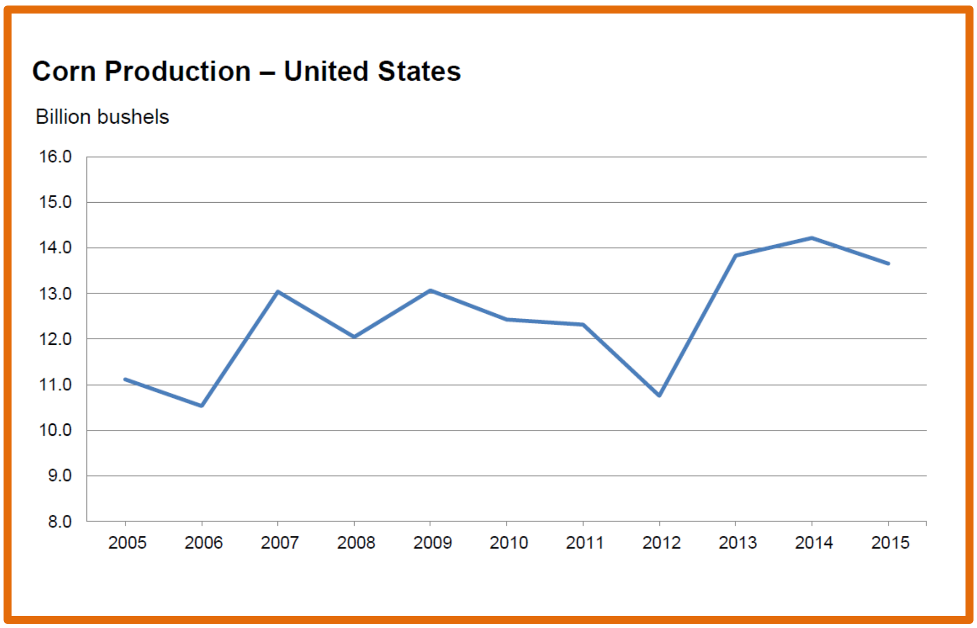
The November 1 corn objective yield data indicate the highest number of ears on record for the combined 10 objective yield States (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin).

At 13.7 billion bushels, 2015 corn production is forecast to be the third highest production on record for the United States. The forecasted yield, at 169.3 bushels per acre, is expected to be the second highest yield on record for the United States. Record yields are forecasted in Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, South Dakota, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

By October 4, eighty-six percent of the corn was mature, 11 percentage points ahead of last year and 3 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Generally dry conditions across large portions of the Corn Belt facilitated good harvest progress during the week. Nationwide, producers had harvested 27 percent of the corn crop by October 4, eleven percentage points ahead of last year but 5 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Overall, 68 percent of the Nation's corn was rated in good to excellent condition, 6 percentage points below the same time last year.

By October 11, ninety-four percent of this year's corn was mature, 8 percentage points ahead of last year and 3 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Nationwide, harvest progress advanced to 42 percent complete, 19 percentage points ahead of last year but slightly behind the 5-year average. Overall, 68 percent of the corn was reported in good to excellent condition, 6 percentage points below the same time last year.

Ninety-eight percent of the corn was mature by October 18, six percentage points ahead of last year and 2 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Fifty-nine percent of this year's corn was harvested by October 18, twenty-nine percentage points ahead of last year and 5 percentage points ahead of the 5-year



average. Nationwide, harvest progress advanced 17 percentage points during the week ending October 18. Overall, 68 percent of the corn was reported in good to excellent condition at this time, 6 percentage points below the same time last year.

By October 25, nationwide corn harvest progress advanced to 75 percent complete, 31 percentage points ahead of last year and 7 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Warm weather across the Corn Belt facilitated rapid harvest progress, including an advance of 27 percentage points during the week in North Dakota and 23 percentage points in Minnesota.

By November 1, producers had harvested 85 percent of this year's corn crop. This was 23 percentage points ahead of last year and 6 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Dry conditions in the northern Great Plains facilitated rapid harvest progress, with harvest advancing 19 percentage points during the week in North Dakota and South Dakota, and 18 percentage points in Nebraska.

Soybean production is forecast at a record 3.98 billion bushels, up 2 percent from October and up 1 percent from last year. Based on November 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 48.3 bushels per acre, up 1.1 bushels from last month and up 0.8 bushel from last year. Area for harvest in the United States is forecast at 82.4 million acres, unchanged from last month.

The November objective yield data for the combined 11 major soybean-producing States (Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, and South Dakota) indicate a higher pod count from the previous year. Compared with final counts for 2014, pod counts are up in 7 of the 11 published States. The largest increase from 2014's final pod count is expected in Kansas, up 262 pods per 18 square feet. A decrease of more than 100 pods per 18 square feet is expected in Arkansas, Missouri, and North Dakota.

At the beginning of October, National soybean harvest progress was well ahead of historical averages with 42 percent of the crop harvested by October 4. Warm and dry conditions during the month provided suitable conditions for fieldwork across the major soybean producing regions. By October 18, the soybean crop was 77 percent harvested, 26 percentage points ahead of last year and 9 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Producers in the eastern Corn Belt especially benefitted from favorable harvest conditions, with progress as of October 18 thirty-two percentage points ahead of the State 5-year average in Ohio and 20 percentage points ahead in Indiana. As of November 1, harvest was 92 percent complete Nationwide, 11 percentage points ahead of last year and 4 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. At the beginning of November, harvest progress was 10 percentage points or more ahead of the State 5-year average in Indiana, North Carolina, and Ohio. If realized, the forecasted yield will be a record high in Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Michigan, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Tennessee.

FARM LABOR

United States - Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 841,000 for the **reference week of October 11-17, 2015,** up 8 percent from the October 2014 reference week. There were 872,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of **July 12-18, 2015,** up 4 percent from the July 2014 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $12.82 per hour during the **October 2015 reference week,** up 6 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $12.11 per hour, up 5 percent from a year earlier. Livestock workers earned $12.02, up 6 percent. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $12.09 per hour, was up 5 percent from October 2014. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.7 hours during the October 2015 reference week, compared with 41.3 hours a year earlier.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $12.47 per hour during the **July 2015 reference week,** up 4 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $11.73 per hour, up 3 percent. Livestock workers earned $11.80 per hour, up 5 percent. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $11.75 per hour, was up 4 percent from July 2014. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.0 hours during the July 2015 reference week, compared with 40.5 hours a year earlier.

The 2015 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was $12.54 per hour, up 4 percent from the 2014 annual average wage. The 2015 U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was $11.72 per hour, up 4 percent from the 2014 annual average. The 2015 U.S. annual average combined wage for field and livestock workers was $11.74, up 4 percent from the 2014 annual average of $11.29 per hour.

For the **October 2015 reference week,** the largest increases in the number of hired workers from the previous year occurred in the Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri) , and Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina) regions. Corn Belt I saw the largest increase, with 42 percent more workers on the region's farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the previous year occurred in the Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Florida, and Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas) regions. The Southern Plains region saw the largest decrease, with 18 percent less workers during the reference week.

Average wage rates increased from the previous year, in nearly all regions. The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the Corn Belt I, Florida, Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), and Southern Plains regions.

For the **July 2015 reference week,** the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from the previous year occurred in the Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), and Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) regions. The Corn Belt II region saw the biggest increase, with 32 percent more workers on the region's farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the previous year occurred in the Florida, Pacific (Oregon and Washington), and Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas) regions. The Pacific region saw the largest decrease, with 12 percent less workers during the reference week.

Average wage rates increased from the previous year, in nearly all regions. The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Florida, Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), and Southern Plains regions.

The West Virginia Field Office will be contacting various producers for the end of the year production surveys.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

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Red Meat Production
Cash Receipts
Census of Horticulture Highlights for WV

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